Since spring 2019, the Stanford International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Clinic (IHR&CRC) has aided Accountability Counsel (AC) in monitoring the historic Agreement that Haitian farmers reached with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Haitian Government in December 2018. The Agreement aims to restore the livelihoods of Haitian families (organized as the Kolektif Peyizan Viktim Tè Chabè) who were displaced by the construction of the IDB-funded Caracol Industrial Park (CIP) in northeast Haiti in 2011. It is the culmination of 18 months of negotiations, facilitated by the IDB’s accountability office, the Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism. AC supported the Kolektif during those negotiations.

The collaboration between the IHR&CRC and AC is focused on ensuring that the promises of the Agreement do not remain unfulfilled. To that end, the IHR&CRC and AC performed a series of interviews with members of the Kolektif to establish a baseline of the socio-economic situation facing the Kolektif before the core benefits under the Agreement are delivered. Interviewees were randomly selected from each of the four classes of beneficiaries under the Agreement, as well as with their dependents who had been nominated for employment at the CIP. The IHR&CRC then synthesized the results of these interviews to understand, qualitatively and quantitatively, what challenges the Kolektif are currently facing: providing the foundation for ongoing monitoring and evaluating of the impact of the implementation of the Agreement.

Although the full results of these interviews remain confidential at this time, the results were stark. Interviewees are trapped in significantly more severe poverty than they experienced prior to their displacement. Moreover, the Kolektif is made up of people who made their living farming, and the majority have had to abandon this activity, harming not just their well-being, but also their sense of self. It is clear that the IHR&CRC and AC will need to monitor the implementation of the Agreement closely to ensure that justice is served.